

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) voted to expand America's intelligence community with additional funding and resources through the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which passed the House on Friday.

“Grave threats exist across the world and unless we fully understand where they are generated and how they operate, we can't protect ourselves,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “I voted for this Act because it will strengthen our nation's intelligence network by providing the resources our intelligence professionals needs to scout out information, assess threats and act upon that intelligence.”

H.R. 2701 gives intelligence personnel the tools they need to do their jobs by authorizing funding for the sixteen agencies that constitute the U.S. intelligence community. It specifically increases funding for intelligence activities in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan to address on-going challenges. The Act will enhance Congressional oversight and create an Inspector General position to eliminate waste and fraud.

Congressman Rodriguez lauded the leadership of his Texas colleague, U.S. Congressman Silvestre Reyes (TX-16), who chairs the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Congressman Reyes said Friday that he is proud of the bill, which will give intelligence professionals the support they need to keep America safe.

“This legislation increases spending in critical areas such as human intelligence and counterterrorism, and also enhances funding to address emerging cybersecurity threats,” said Congressman Reyes. “It also improves congressional oversight by strengthening certain disclosure requirements of intelligence activities to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees.”

In order to fully meet the intelligence needs in the 21st century, the bill would also create a plan to diversify the intelligence community, including an enhanced focus on language.

“Growing a cadre of culturally attuned, linguistically diverse intelligence experts will vastly expand America's ability to root out and confront threats and attacks head-on anywhere in the world,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “With a strong, well-funded intelligence structure in place, we will defend our country from those who would do us harm.”

For more information on the bill and the House Intelligence Committee, visit <http://intelligence.house.gov>

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